

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 19 and 23 have been amended.

Paragraph [0006] was amended to include text that was mistakenly omitted from the preliminary amendment dated December 21, 2004 but was included in the patent application as filed.

The drawings were unaccepted by the Examiner because the drawings were inconsistent with the specification. The specification describes the housing 4 in FIG. 3, however, FIG. 3 does not show the reference numeral 4. The specification was been amended to recite that the spring element 26 is braced around a fixed point on a housing (not shown) similar to the housing 4 shown in FIG. 1.

The drawings were also objected to by the Examiner. To overcome these objections, claim 15 has been amended to recite a control mechanism and FIG. 2 has been amended to add the arrows A and B to indicate the directions of the adjuster 1. Further, FIG. 3 has been amended to add flutes, indicated by reference numeral 36, on the detent contour 5. Support for this amendment is found in the specification at paragraph [0026]. FIG. 3 was also amended to include reference numeral 38 to indicate the support segment of the spring element 26. No new matter has been added.

Claim 19 was objected to because the claim contains typographical or grammatical error. The claim 19 was been amended to recite "the detent contour of the adjuster."

Claims 15-18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita (US Patent No. 5, 946,978). Yamashita discloses an indexing spring 42 having a nose portion 95 that is deflected or biased radially outwardly from one of

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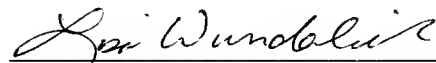
the channels 80 or 82 in the adjusting member 40 and then rides along the exterior surface or threads 78 of the adjusting member 40, see specification at col. 6, lines 53-57. Claim 15 has been amended to recite a detent mechanism that includes a detent contour extending along a radial interior surface of the adjuster and a spring element having at least one retention segment and a support segment, the retention segment of the spring element engaging the detent contour from within the adjuster. Accordingly, Yamashita fails to disclose a detent contour that extends along a radial interior surface of the adjuster and a spring element that engages the detent contour from within the adjuster. For this reason, the rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-18, 21 and 22 were rejected as claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Since claims 16-18, 21 and 22 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of claim 15 as amended, they are felt to overcome the obviousness rejection in the same manner as amended claim 15.

This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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